Rivers of Odisha

by Swaroop Sir

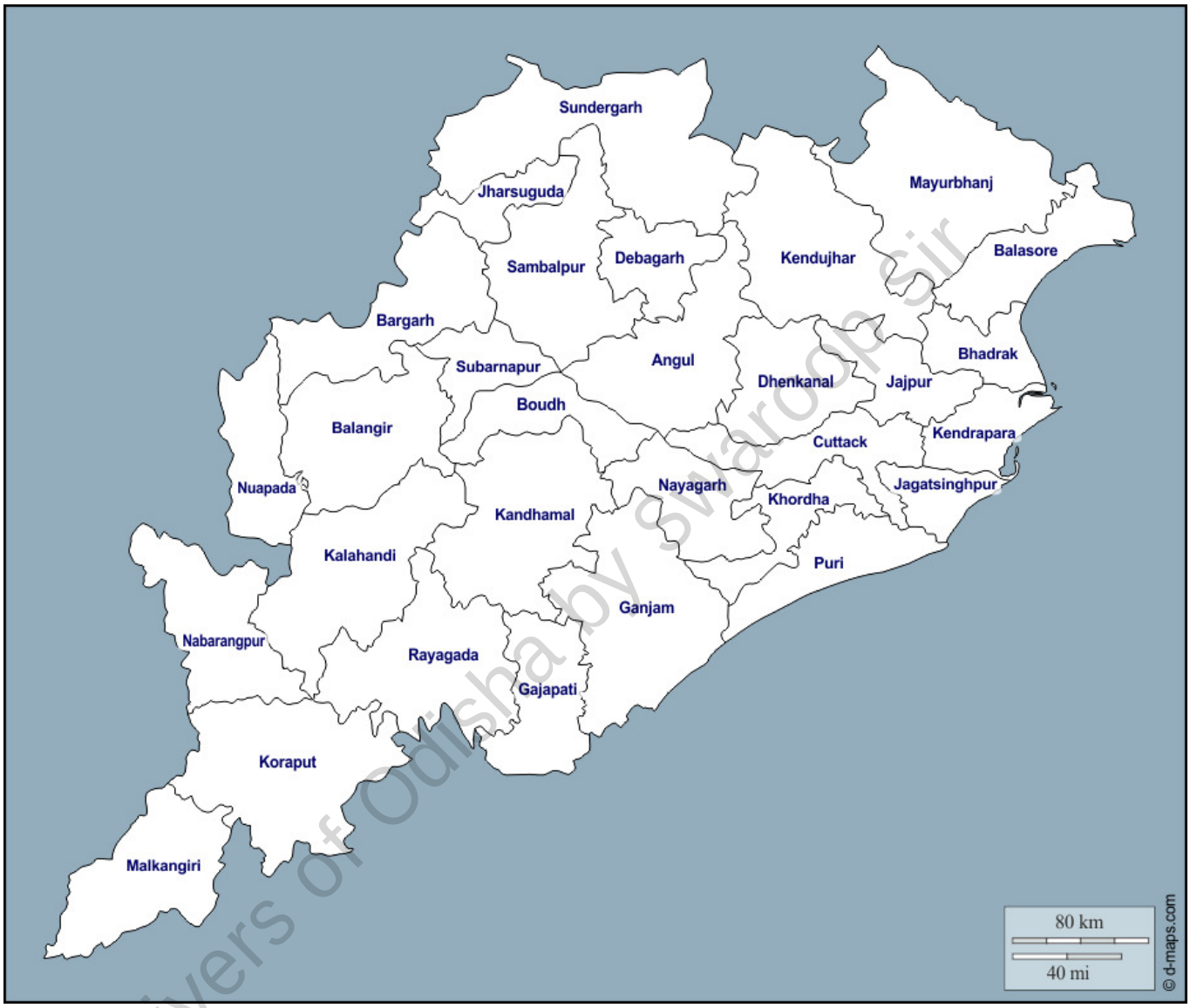
There are four groups of rivers which flow through Odisha into the Bay of Bengal

They are:

- (i) Rivers that have a source outside the State (the Subarnarekha, the Brahmani and the Mahanadi).
- (ii) Rivers having a source inside the State (the Budhabalanga, the Baitarini, the Salandi, and the Rushikulya).
- (iii) Rivers having a source inside the Odisha, but flow through other states (the Bahuda, the Vansadhara, and the Nagavali).
- (iv) Rivers having a source inside Odisha, but tributary to rivers which flow through other states (the Machkund, the Sileru, the Kolab, and the Indravati).

The North to – South Order of Rivers is :

Subarnarekha > Budhabalanga > Salandi > Baitarini > Brahmani > Mahanadi > Rushikulya > Bahuda > Vansadhara > Nagavali > Indravati > Kolab



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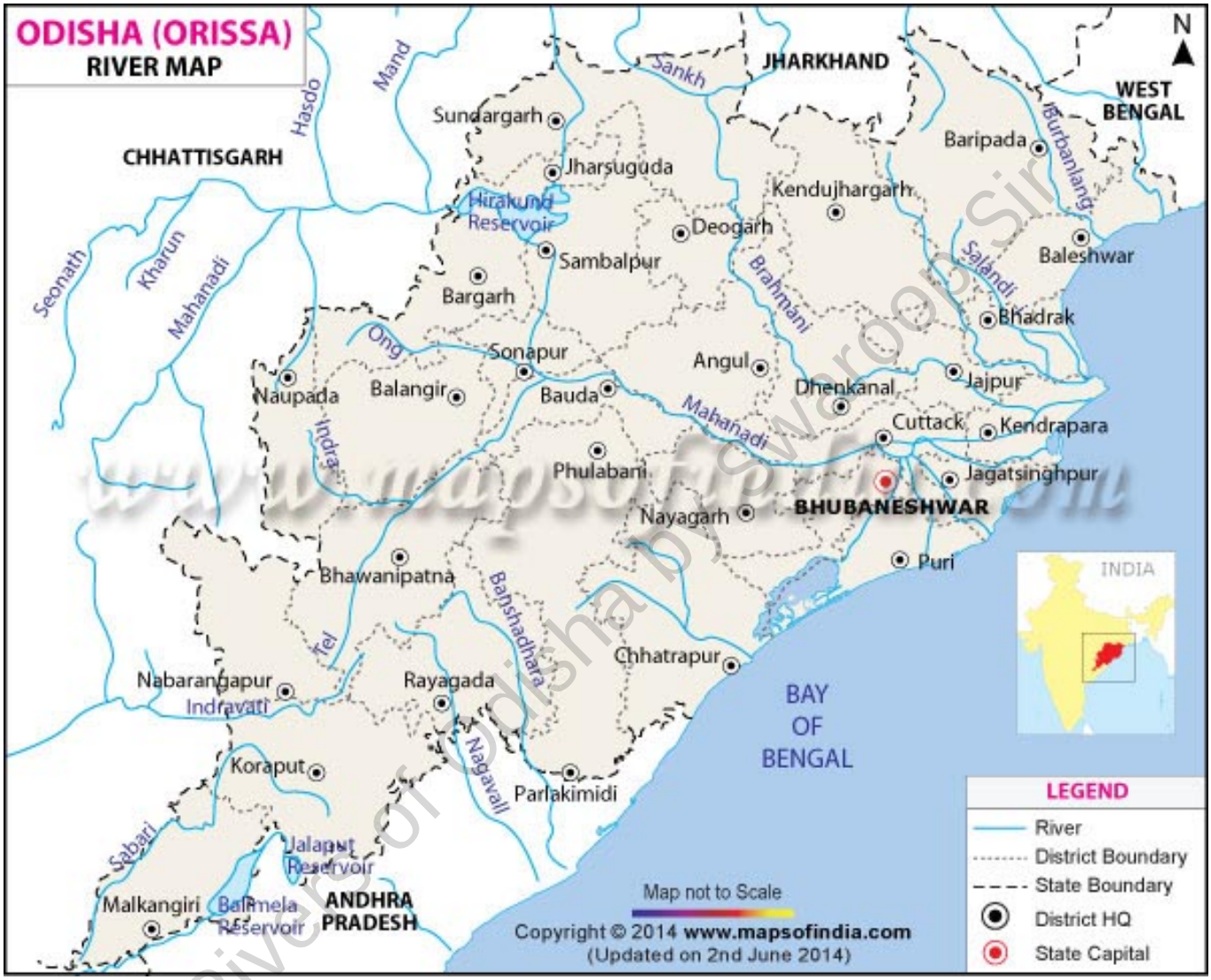

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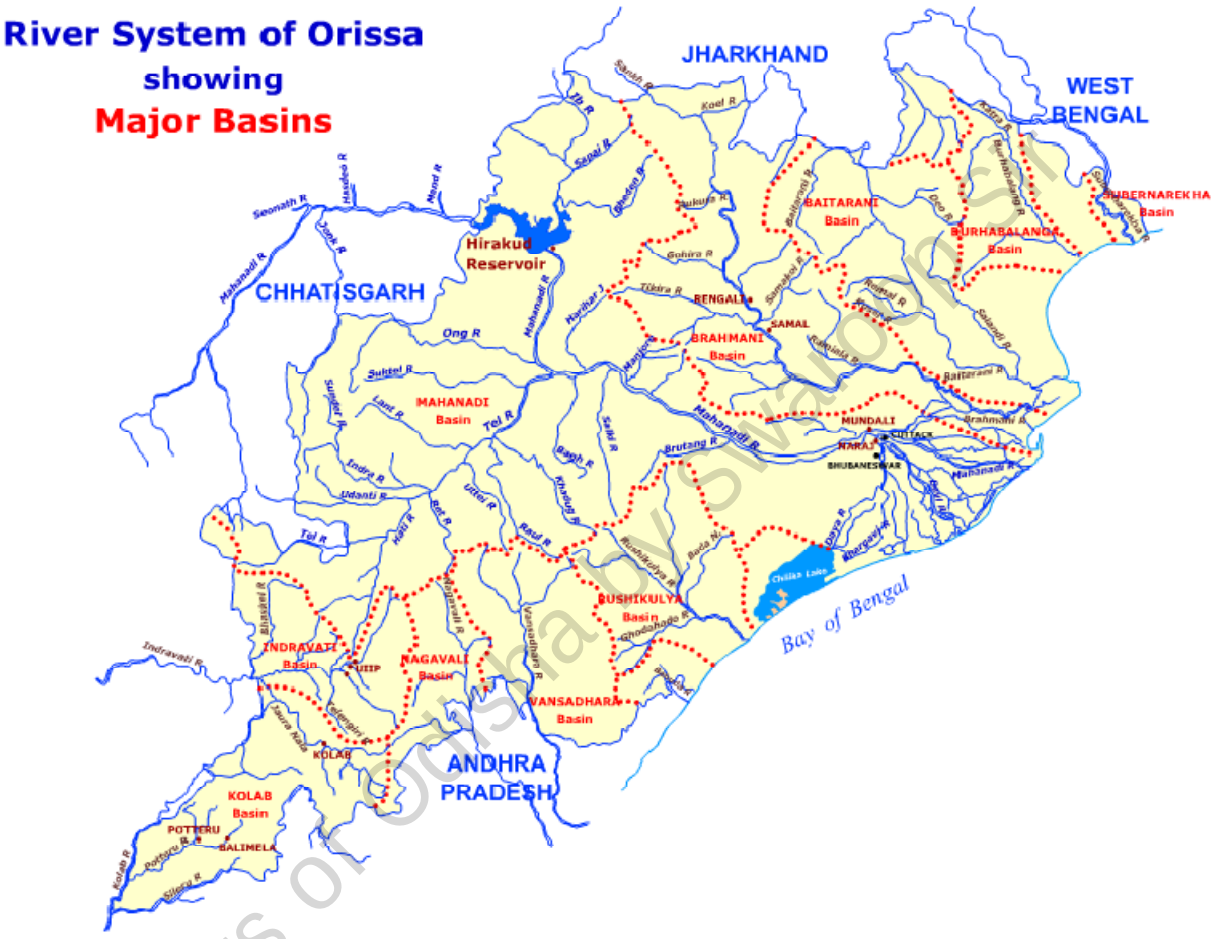
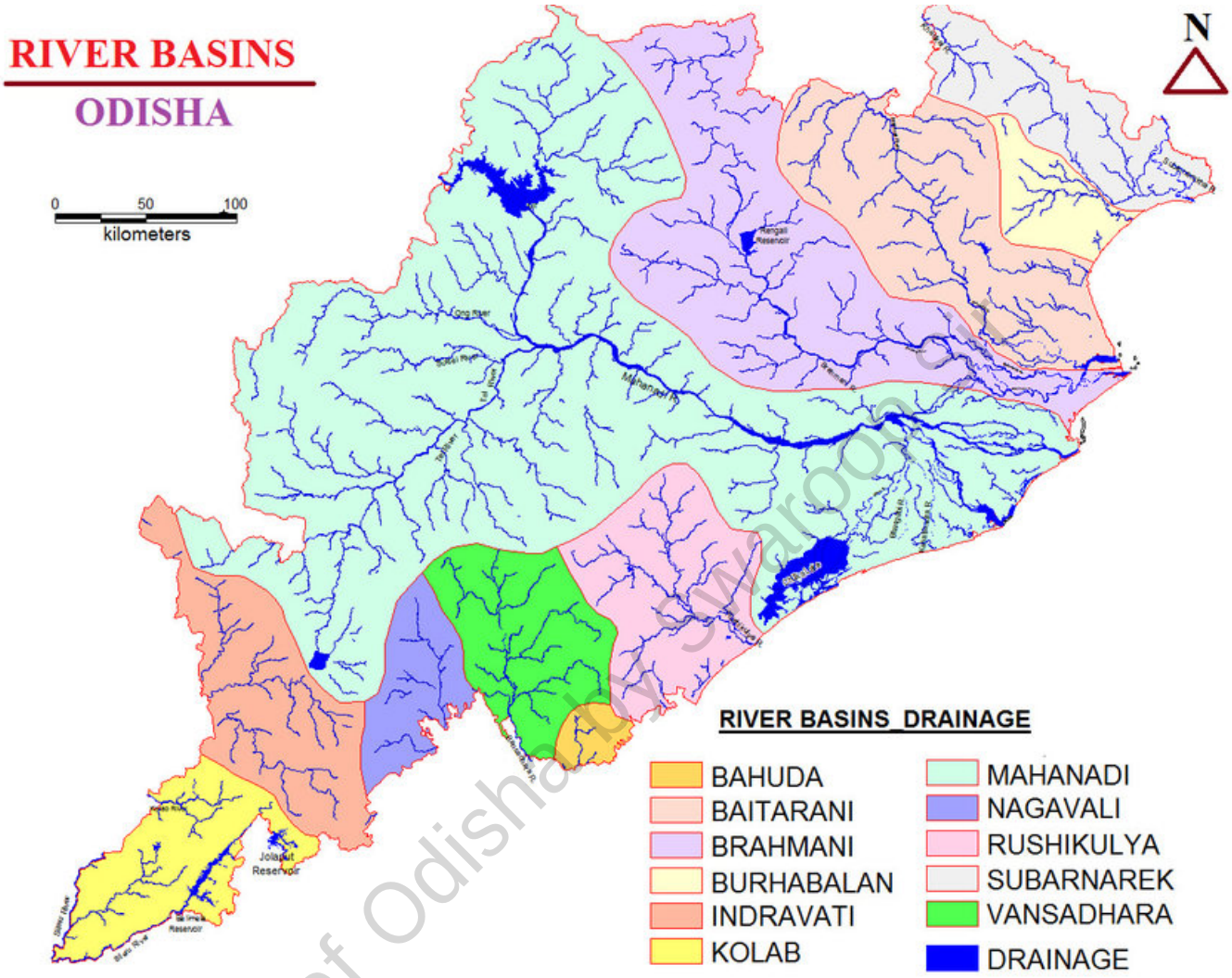


Rivers of Odisha by Sivaiah S



Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop

The Subarnarekha

- Origin : Nagri village, near Ranchi, Jharkhand (Chhotanagpur Plateau)
- Flows through Jharkhand, WB, OD (Mayurbhanj and Balasore)
- Into the Bay of Bengal at Talasari, Balasore, OD
- Length : 79 kms in Odisha, 446 Kms Total
- Forms border between OD and WB for some distance before entering OD (at Lakhmannath, Balasore)
- Imp Places : Chandil, Jamsedpur(JK) , Jaleswar and Bhogarai (Od, Balasore)
- Places of attraction : Kumbhirgari or Bhusandeswar Shiva Temple (12 ft linga), Talasari Beach (Red Crab)
- Tributaries: Raru river, Kanchi river and other rivers

The Budhabalanga

- Origin : Similipal Moutain Range, Mayurbhanj
- Flows through Mayurbhanj and Balasore
- Into the Bay of Bengal (North of Chandipur) Balasore
- Length : 199 kms
- Imp Places : Baripada (Mayurbhanj), Remuna, Balasore,
- Places of attraction : Barehipani Falls, Mayurbhanj, Ruins of Haripur, Remuna Khirachora Gopinath Temple
- Tributaries: Palapala, Sunei, Kalo, Sanjo, Gangahari and Katra
- Additional info: Sunei Dam and Hydroelectric Project, Mayurbhanj
- Other prominent rivers originating from eastern slope of the Eastern Ghats are The Salia and The Salandi

The Baitarani

- Origin : The Gonasika/Guptaganga (Stone looking like the nostril of a cow) Keonjhar
- Only major river originating from Keonjhar Plateau
- Forms boundary between Orissa and Jharkhand for a small stretch

Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir

- Enters plain at Anandapur, Keonjhar
- Before flowing into the sea forms delta with the Brahmani, on which Bhitarkanika WLS and Gahirmatha (Olive Ridley) (both in Kendrapada) are situated
- Flows Into the Bay of Bengal at Dhamra, Bhadrak, OD
- Length : 360 kms
- Imp Places : Champua (NAC, Keonjhar), Anandpur (Keonjhar), Jajpur, Chandbali (Bhadrak)
- Places of attraction : Bhimakund Waterfall
- Tributaries: 30 Right Bank + 35 left bank = 65 total
- Major left bank Tributaries are : Bhandan, Deo, **Salandi** and Matai
- **The Salandi :** Originates in Meghasani hills of Similipal (Mayurbhanj)

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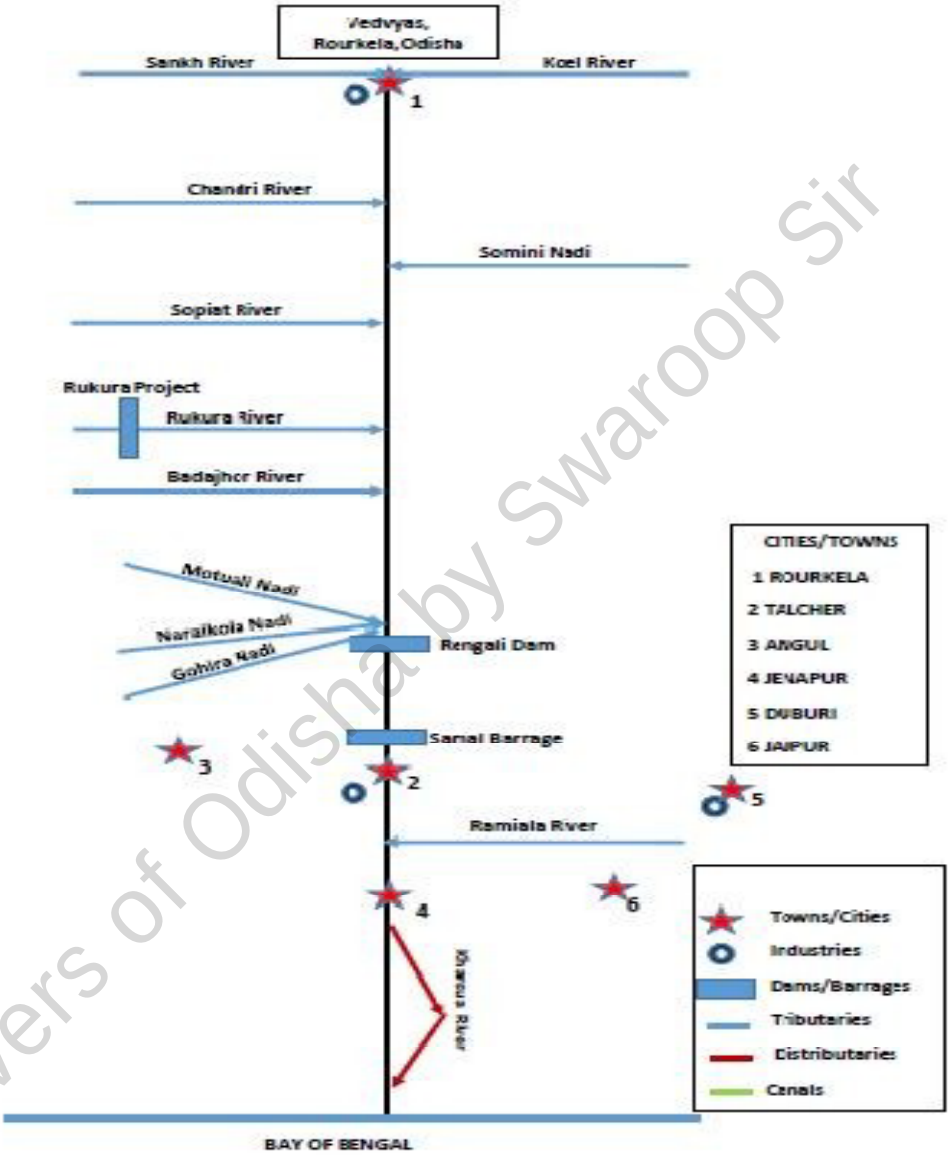
THE BRAHMANI



Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir

- Origin : As two rivers, Shankha (R) and Koel (L); they meet at Vedvyas, (near Rourkela, Sundergarh) to form Brahmani
- It is an interstate River that originates from Chotanagpur Plateau (another being Subarnarekha)

- **2nd largest river in Odisha**
- Length : 799 Km (total) /541 km (in Odisha) / 461 km (from the confluence at Vedvyas)
- (South) Koel River originates on the Ranchi plateau; fed by the North Karo, South Karo and Koina in Jharkhand
- Sankh River originates in Lupungpat village in Gumla district in Jharkhand; flows across Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh (again through Jharkhand) and Odisha
- Little before Bhuban, Ramial, biggest tributary(L) of Brahmani meets her
- Below **Jenapur** (Jajpur), Brahmani River bifurcates into Brahmani and Kharsuan (Kharasrota)(L) and **Brahmani delta starts** from here

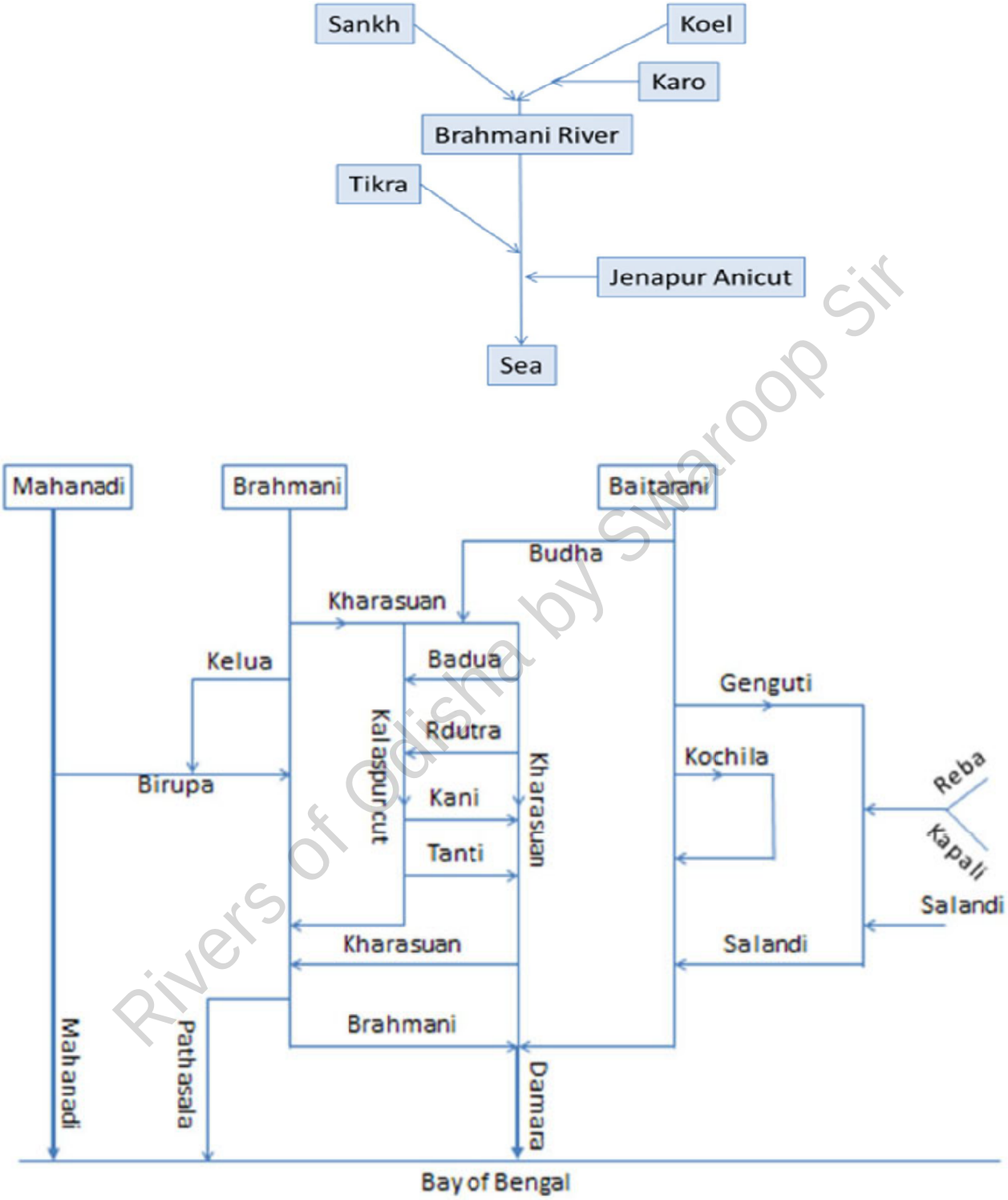
  Kharasrota is met by Budha(L), a distributary(R) of Baitarani

  Birupa (Left distributary of the Mahanadi) meets Brahmani(R)

  Then Kharasrota meets Brahmani

  (In that sense Kharasrota is both a dirtibutary and tributary of Brahmani)
- Before flowing into the Bay of Bengal forms delta with the Baitarani
- Imp Places and places of attraction : Mandira Dam (Sundergarh) on Sankh River provides water to RSP, Vedvyas Temple (Sundergarh), Rourkela (Sundergarh)(L) , Rengali Dam (Angul) (Cuts across The Eastern Ghats and forms a gorge at Rengali), NTPC (R) , Samal Barriage, Talcher Twn (R),Sarang (L), Joranda (Dhenkanal) (R), Bhuban (L), Ratnagiri Buddhist Site (R), Pattamundei (Kendrapada) (R)
- Has 45 major tributaries

Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir



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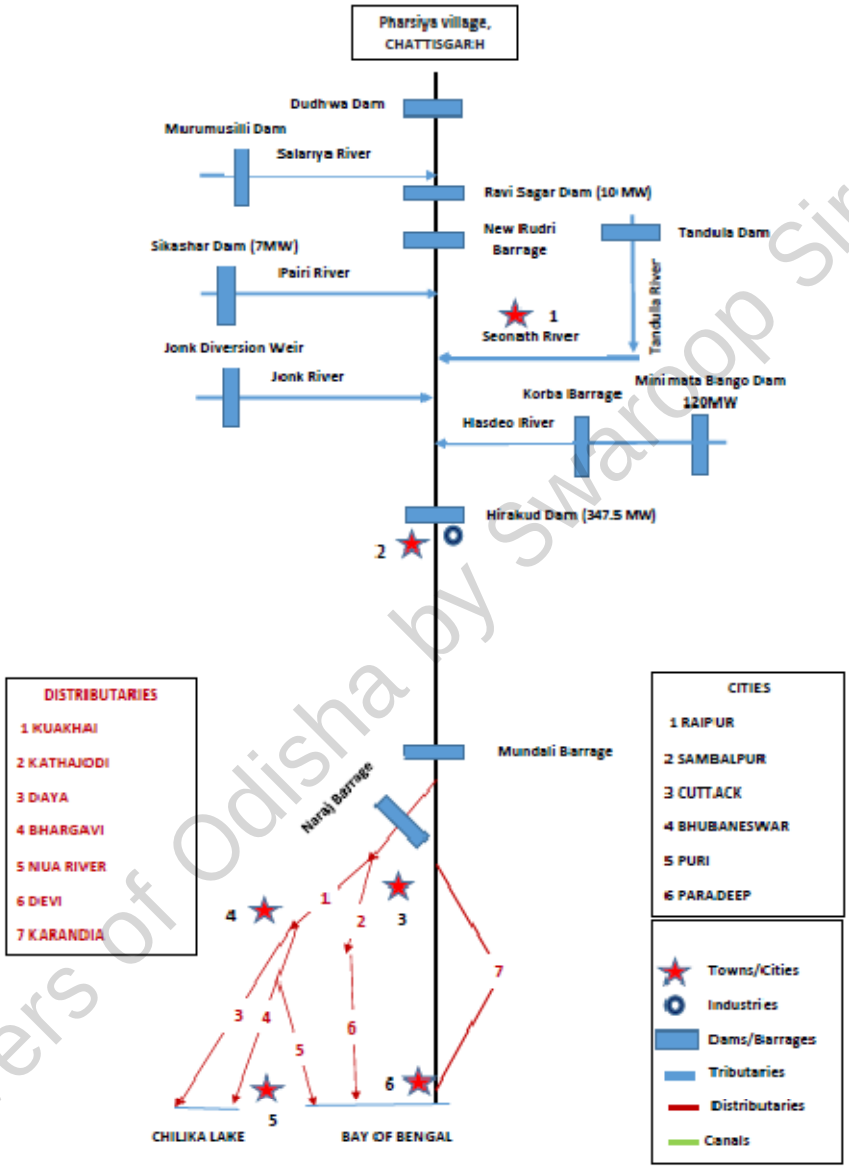
THE MAHANADI



Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir

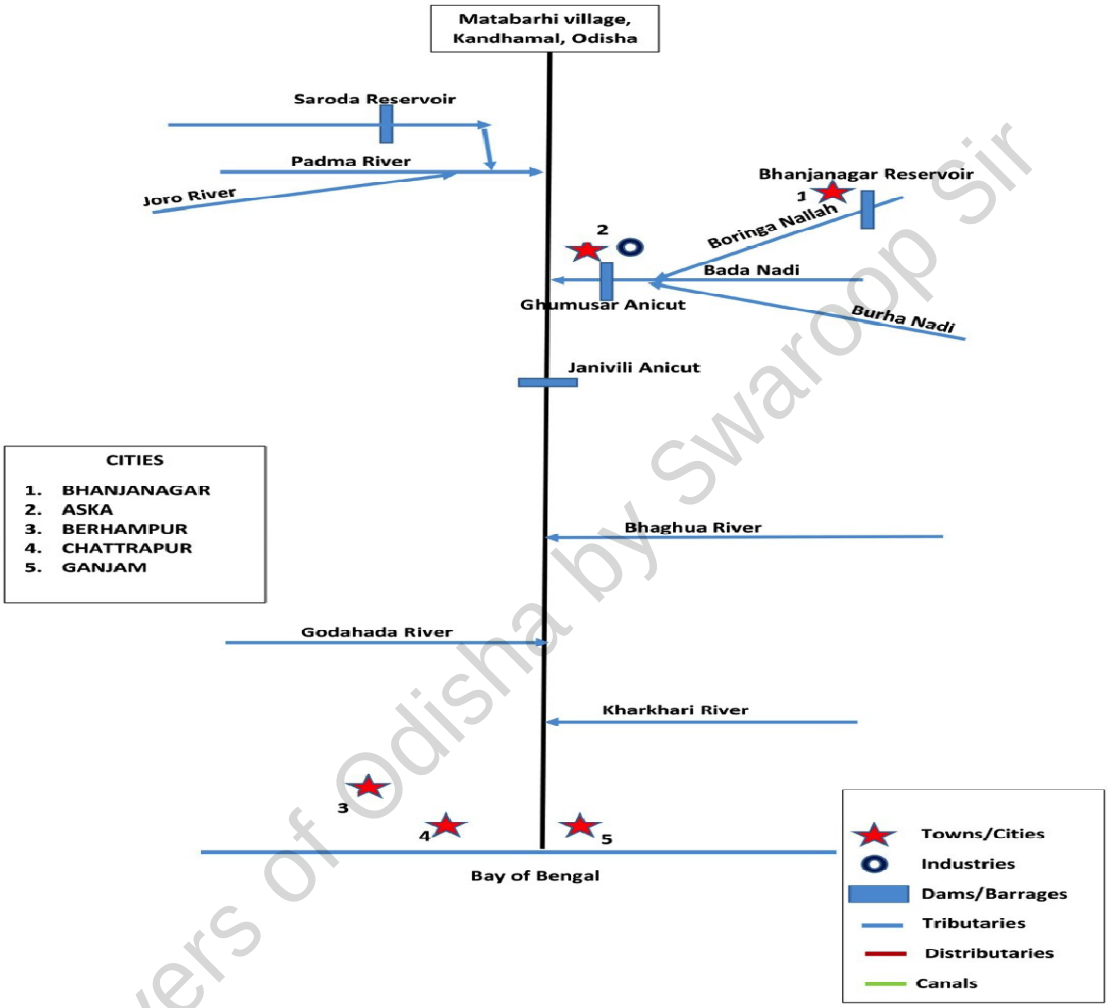
- Largest river, Length : **851km total/ 494 km in Odisha**
- It is called **Sorrow of Odisha** (due to floods)
- Origin : **Pharsiya village/ Nagri town, Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh (Amarkantak Plateau)**
- **Seonath** is the longest tributary of Mahanadi

- It is **a Left bank tributary** of Mahanadi in CH

  Other Major tributaries in CH are Jonk(R) and Hansdeo (L)
- It is an interstate river flowing through Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
- Imp: Because of fertile basin of Mahanadi, **Chhattisgarh is called Rice Bowl of India**
- Hirakud Dam (Sambalpur) is on river Mahanadi
- Mahanadi cuts across the Eastern Ghats at Satakosia (Badamul, Nayagarh) and forms a gorge
- Mahanadi **enters plain at Naraj, Cuttack**
- Enters Bay of Bengal at **False point, Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur**
- Imp tributaries in OD : **Ib(L)** ; Jhaun, Jira, Ong, Tel, Bagh, Salunki (all Right)
- Major Distributaries: Kathajodi, Birupa, Kuakhai, Daya, Bhargavi, Kushabhadra, Biluakhai, Devi, Kandala, Chitrotpala, Luna, Karandia, Paika and Badagenguti
- **Daya & Bhargavi fall into Chilika Lake**
- **Birupa falls into Brahmani**
- Districts in OD : Jharsuguda / Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Bauda, Angul/ Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur
- Imp Places : Raipur, Hirakud dam, Burla, Samaleswari Temple, Sambalpur, Leaning Huma temple (Sambalpur), Sonepur town, Satkosia (Nayagarh), Tikarpada (Angul), Nilamadhab Temple (Nayagarh), Cuttack (Charchika, Bhattarika, Dhabaleswar), Paradeep
- Hirakud Dam :
  - Constructed in 1957
  - Longest dam in Asia
  - Has the biggest artificial lake in Asia

Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir

THE RUSHIKULYA



Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir

- Origin : from **Daringbadi hills/ Rushyamala hills in Kandhamal**
- **Daringbadi is called the 'Kashmir of Odisha'**
- Flows through Kandhamal and Ganjam
- Into the Bay of Bengal near Chatrapur, Ganjam
- **No delta in its mouth because of strong currents**

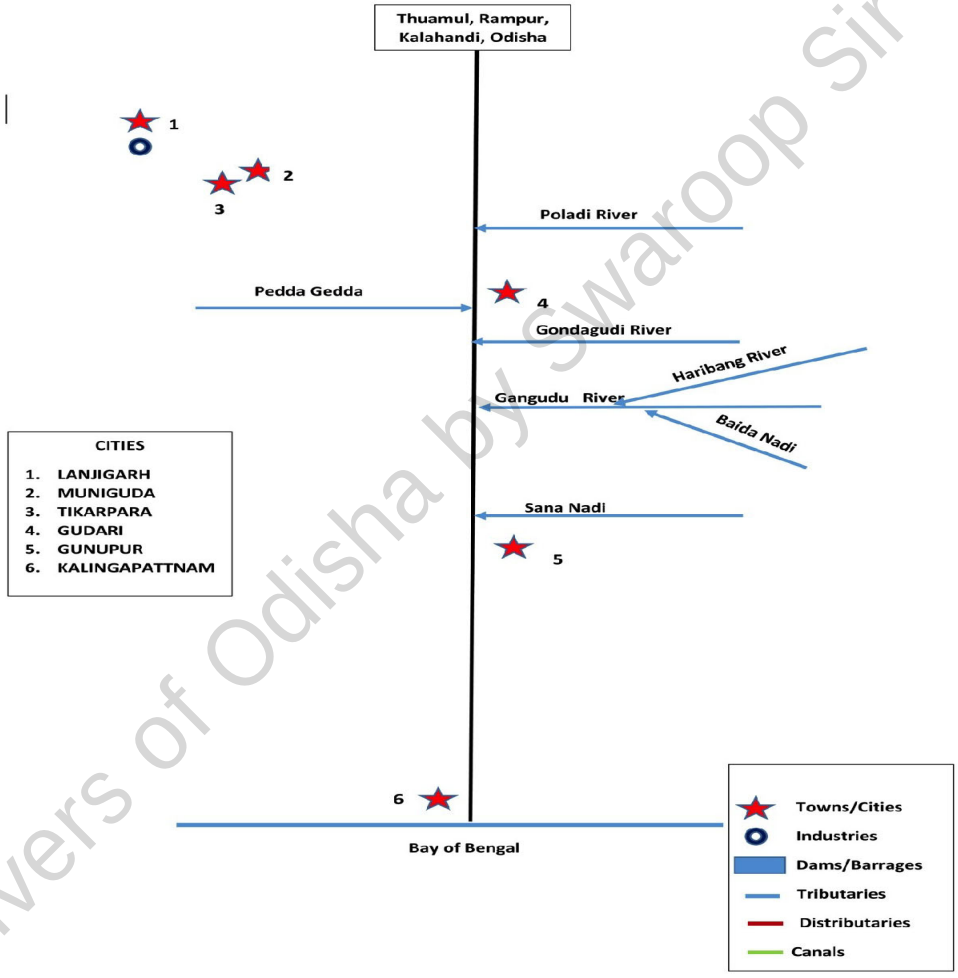
- Rushikulya is called **the life line of Ganjam**.
- Important Tributaries : **Bada Nadi, Ghodahada**
- Important places : Aska, Jaugarh fort and **Asokan rock Edicts**, Taratarini Temple (All in Ganjam)
- Other imp places in Gnajam: Berhampur, Gopalpur sea Beach, Tampara Lake (Fresh water)
- Dolphins are seen in the mouth of Rushikulya river and the **second most important nesting place for Olive Ridley Turtles is in Rushikulya mouth**

The Bahuda

- Origin : Near village Luba from the Singharaj hills of the Eastern Ghats in Gajapati
- Flows through Gajapati, Ganjam, AP, back to Ganjam then into the Bay of Bengal
- Length: 96 Kms total

Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir

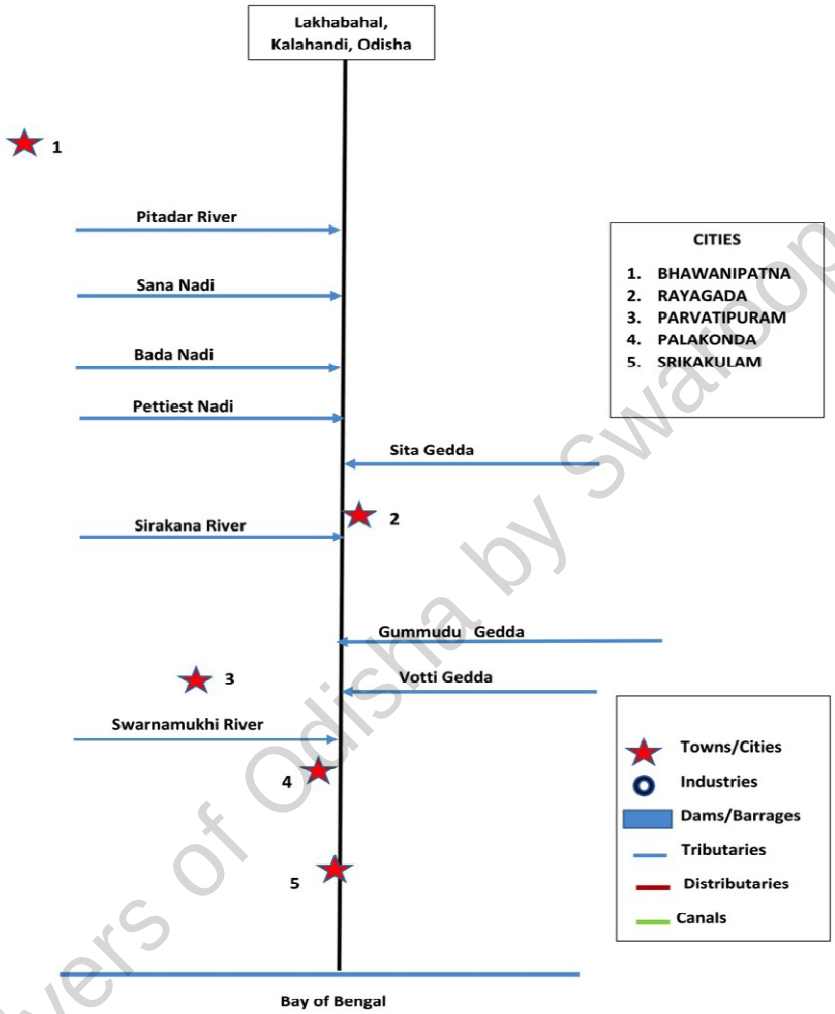
THE VANSHADHARA



Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir

- Origin : **Niyamagiri Hills in Thuamul Rampur block, Kalahandi district**
- Flows through Kalahandi, Raygada, Gajapati
- Forms common boundary between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh
- Into the Bay of Bengal near **Kalingapatanam, Andhra Pradesh**
- Length : 239 Km total/ 176 Km in Odisha
- Important places : Gunupur (Raygada), [Paralakhemundi (Gajapati)]
- Important Trinbutaries : Mahendratanaya (AP)
- **Bauxite and Manganese** are found in the basin

The Nagavalli



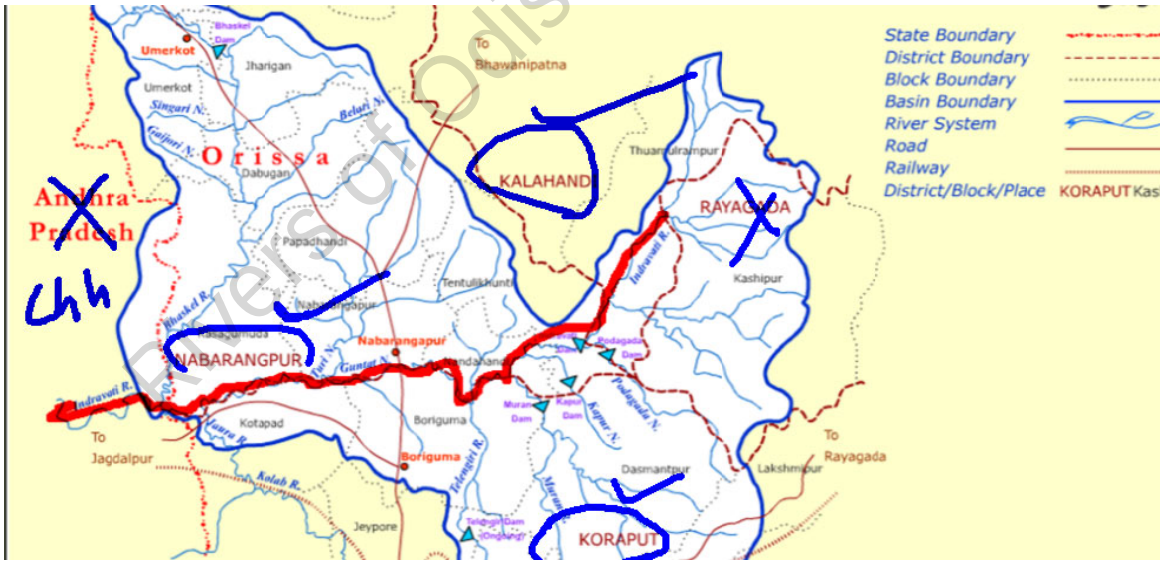
Rivers of Odisha by Swarup Sir

- Origin : near **Lakhbahal, Kalahandi**
- Flows through Kalahandi, Raygada, AP
- Flows through **Srikakulum in AP**
- Into the Bay of Bengal

- Aka Langulya River
- Length of the river is 217 km total/ 125 km in Odisha (remaining in Andhra Pradesh)

The Indravati

- Origin : **Eastern Ghats of Dandakaranya range in Kalahandi district**
- Flows through (westerly direction) Nabrangpur, Koraput; forms the boundary between Odisha and Chattisgarh; enters Chattisgarh through Bastar District; flows in Chattisgarh; (turns south and) flows along the boundary of Chattisgarh and Maharashtra and finally **joins Godavari River at the junction of the boundaries of Maharashtra, Chattisgarh and Telangana states states**
- **Tributary to Godavari River**
- total course of 535.80km (174 Km in Odisha)
- Tributaries **: Jaura river, Bhaskel river**
- **Chitrakoot falls in Chattisgarh** is on Indravati river



Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir

The Kolab

- Origin **: Sinkaran hills of the Eastern Ghats in Koraput districts**
- **Meets the Godavari in Andhra Pradesh**
- **Kolab Reservoir is near Jeypore Town in Koraput, Odisha**
- Prominent **tributary** of Kolab is **Machhakund River (Sileru River)**
- Important places : Damanjodi (NALCO, Koraput), Sunabeda (HAL, Koraput), Koraput town
- Notes:
    - **Balimela Reservoir on Sileru aka Machkund River is in Malkangiri**
    - **Sileru makes the SE border of Od and Sabri makes the SW border**
    - Gupteswar Temple is by the Sabri river near Chhatishgarh border
    - **Motu (Malkangiri) is the southernmost point of Odisha**
- These rivers (Kolab, Sabri, Sileru) have a NE – SW flow
- Sileru meets Godavri near Kunavaram AP

Rivers of Odisha by Swaroop Sir